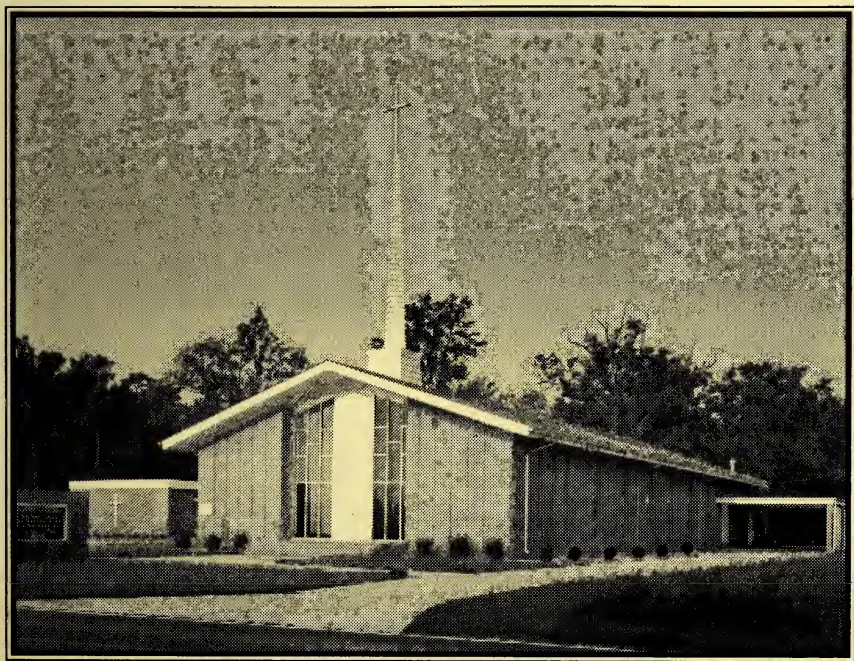


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DANIELS CHAPEL

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH



*Daniels Chapel Church -
A light in the Community for Jesus Christ.*



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History of
DANIELS CHAPEL
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Although Daniels Chapel did not officially become a church until November 26, 1921, its history begins in 1918 when the Reverend N. S. Lancaster moved into what was then called the "Godwin Community." There was no local church, but Mr. Lancaster held services in Ben Godwin's yard and packhouse. Those Christians converted under his ministry took their membership to Little Rock Free Will Baptist Church in Lucama.

Sunday School classes were held in vacant houses or barns. A location frequently used was an empty house owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ben Pittman. Even though Mr. Pittman was a Methodist, his daughters, Ethel and Selma, taught Sunday School for the Free Will Baptist group. Other known teachers were Mrs. Lucy Tomlinson and Mrs. Estelle Walston.

When Wilson County decided to consolidate the existing community schools into one larger school, the group of 33 Christians (listed below) who had been meeting together decided to buy Pittman School, a former one-room school-house, and to transform it into a church. They named the new church Daniels Chapel in honor of the J. Lewis Daniels family, who donated the land.

ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF DANIELS CHAPEL FWB CHURCH

John Barfield	Ellen Minchew
Lizzie Bass	Flossie Minchew
Martha Bass	Raymond Minchew
Lula Darden	Charlie Pittman
Robert Darden	Frank Pittman
Dovie Ezzell	Hattie Pittman
Lester Ezzell	Lizzie Pittman
Celia Bass Godwin	Mollie Pittman
Eliza Godwin	Robert Pittman
Henry Godwin	Bessie Rice
Linda Godwin	Lilly Rose
Maggie Godwin	Ellen Snipes
(Mrs. Ben Godwin)	Jacob Tomlinson
Maggie Godwin	Lucy Tomlinson
(Mrs. Henry Godwin)	Polly Tomlinson
Press Godwin	Josephene Walston
Sally Godwin	Sarah Ward
	Aggie Williams

At the Church's organizational meeting, November 26, 1921, Elder W. M. Howell moderated. A collection was received totaling \$3.88. The following officers were elected:

Clerk and Treasurer--J. R. Pittman
Trustees--Robert Darden, W. F. Pittman, Jacob Tomlinson
Deacons--Robert Darden, C. W. Pittman
Deaconesses--Mrs. Lizzie Pittman, Mrs. Lucy Tomlinson
Finance Committee--L. B. Baker, Jacob Tomlinson
Ruling Elders--A. F. Ezzell, J. J. Parrish, W. F. Pittman
Pastor--W. M. Howell

At the second business meeting, January 21, 1922, the Church voted to have delegates attend the first Union Meeting of the Western Conference. Contributions were made as follows: Missions--\$0.50, Education--\$0.50, Orphanage--\$1.00, and Union--\$1.00.

Subsequent meetings were primarily concerned with electing delegates to the Union meetings and tending to financial matters. Salaries and offerings throughout the period reflect the financial status of the struggling community. On October 21, 1922, the pastor received a collection of \$14.35. In 1924, Arthur Pittman was appointed the first church sexton with a salary of \$3.00 per quarter. C. W. "Bill" Pittman, Jr. later assumed this position. On December 13, 1925, the Sunday collection was \$3.84. The only direct reference to the budget during this time period was for 1934 when the yearly budget was \$105.00.

During the early years, the pastors were recommended on a yearly basis by a committee selected by the Church. On September 21, 1940, the Church had raised only \$23.39 toward paying the pastor for 1939 and 1940. The remaining \$9.55 was to be raised on or before the next conference. The pastor received a raise in September 1944, when the Church voted to give him \$25.00 a month.

From time to time members were charged with "walking disorderly." Subsequently, a "Christian Conduct Committee" was established December 18, 1923. A resolution was adopted September 13, 1924 stating ". . . any member beginning from this meeting that shall absent him or herself from four quarterly meetings in succession shall thereby suspend themselves from membership in the Church until reinstated by the Church." Ruling elders were expected to visit "delinquent" members and report at the next meeting. Several members were excommunicated throughout the early years.

In September 1926, the Church voted to withdraw from the Western Conference and to unite with the Central Conference. In 1928, the Ladies Aide Society was organized, and in

1930, the Free Will Baptist League, a training service for Christians, was formed.

The Church grew. On October 1, 1935, the members voted to build a 16' X 40' addition which would add two Sunday School rooms. In the early 1940's they added four more Sunday School rooms.

In 1941, the church voted to celebrate its first homecoming. The date was set to be the fourth Sunday in May and former pastors were invited to attend. Revival was set for the week after the fourth Sunday in September.

Another reflection of troubled times came during World War II. In September, 1942, the church clerk was asked to send a card or letter to every "boy" in the armed forces who was a member of the Church. The intent was to let him know his Church remembered him at their business meeting. War bonds became part of the budget, and two women were appointed to get a service flag for the church.

During the post-war years, church matters remained routine. Roll was always called aloud at business meetings. Selecting members to be delegates to the Union Meeting, the Central Conference, and the State Convention were items of prime concern. Offerings were always taken and quite often they were as small as six or eight dollars. When this happened, money was taken from the treasury to make the offering \$10.00.

The Reverend S. A. Smith was given \$10.00 to pay his expenses to the Ministers Institute at Cragmont in June, 1946. During this same year, the Church also purchased one \$25.00 share in the Church Finance Association. Other significant expenditures

occurred in 1947 when the Church purchased a communion table and paid for roof repairs.

During these early years, the Church operated on quarter time, meeting on the fourth Sunday in each month. In June, 1952, when the Reverend J. W. Everton was elected pastor, the number of church services was increased to two Sunday mornings and two Sunday nights each month.

The Church voted to insure the church building for \$10,000 in September, 1953. In that same year, they elected to build a parsonage. Much of the work was donated by members, and the first parsonage was completed in February, 1954, with the Everton's being the first occupants.

During his tenure, Mr. Everton re-organized the Free Will Baptist League and began Wednesday Night Prayer Service. Since the League met every Sunday night, members elected to stay and have a church service afterward. In September, 1955, Daniels Chapel became a full-time church. Shortly thereafter, the first Sunday in November was designated Loyalty Sunday.

In the mid-1950's, much was done to enhance the appearance and the comfort of the church building. First, new screen doors and windows were added, as well as new light fixtures. Since the Church was growing, the people needed more seating space. The choir was moved up behind the pulpit. In 1957, the church building got a real "face lift" when stained glass windows were installed, a vestibule and porch were built, and a steeple was added. The Woman's Auxiliary purchased carpet for the front of the sanctuary and the aisle. Because the Church need additional parking space, members appointed a committee to contact Mr. Lewis Daniels. Mr. Daniels

gave the Church 70 feet of land all the way across the back of the church lot.

Homecoming became a yearly event in 1957, when the Church elected to set aside the fourth Sunday in September each year for this purpose.

In 1958, much was done to improve the Sunday School facilities. Plans for remodeling existing Sunday School rooms were discussed, and a building committee was formed to oversee the construction of the Educational Building which was completed in 1959. Also, a new heating system was installed in the church.

During this same year, Raymond Glover was the first man to be selected as the seventh deacon. Until this time, the deacon board was made up of six men. Another "first" was in 1960 when a telephone was placed in the parsonage. The parsonage also got a heating system, and the back of the church was underpinned for the first time.

A further enhancement to the appearance of the sanctuary came in 1961 when the Home Demonstration Club purchased curtains to hang in front of the choir and drapes for the window behind the pulpit.

In March, 1962, the Sunday School and Church Treasurers were combined. The Free Will Baptists League disbanded and the money left in its treasury was used to send young people to Cragmont. The Reverend David C. Hansley was given \$15.00 to attend the Minister's Conference.

In 1963, a carport and utility room were added to the parsonage, and a building committee met to discuss the possibility of building a new church. The Church elected to raise money and let the members decide when

they had sufficient funds to begin construction of a new church. In 1965, the pastor and building committee visited some of the newer churches to observe the architecture.

The Church continued to discuss a new church building, and in 1967, the Board of Trustees was authorized to negotiate for a \$40,000 loan. Lloyd Jackson presented the Church with the proposed building plans, and the plans were accepted. The members elected Mr. Jackson to supervise the building of the new church. The Board of Trustees made an agreement with Mrs. Lossie Raper to lease the land adjoining the church for \$50.00 a year. Work on the new church progressed rapidly, but before completion, the Church voted to borrow another \$15,000. When the new church was completed in 1969, the old church was moved away. Robert Strickland was given permission to landscape the church yard, and he donated all of the shrubbery.

The Church voted to have a dedication service for the new church building on the fourth Sunday in September, Homecoming Day, 1969. Dr. Burkette Raper spoke at the service.

While the Church was involved in the building program, other significant changes occurred in its organization. Quarterly Meeting was changed from Saturday before the fourth Sunday to Wednesday night before the fourth Sunday. In 1967, the Board of Deacons began a rotation system, and the office of clerk and treasurer was separated into two positions. In addition, the Church elected to comply with the State Convention and begin the church year in July instead of September.

A library was established in 1970. Due to the growing number of working women and thus, a lack of available workers, Bible School was changed from days to evenings in

1972. In this same year, the Board of Trustees changed to a rotating system, and the Church Board was deemed to consist of the deacons, trustees, treasurer, and clerk.

The early to mid-1970's saw three significant changes: in January 1973, the Church voted to sponsor a Bible Institute and elected a Board of Education to supervise the work of the institute, as well as their own Sunday School; on December 26, 1973, the Church voted to hire its first music director, Mr. Tom Malin; and in July 1974, the first Men's Sunday School class was formed.

The last twenty-five years from 1971-1996 have shown steady progress in most areas of the Church. Physical improvements have not only added to the beauty of the church, but have also enhanced the mood for worship. Among major projects and/or improvements to the church properties have been establishing a Library in 1970 and paving the parking lot in 1977. Robert Strickland's Yard Maintenance Service was employed to landscape and maintain the church grounds in the same year. A Sound Room was installed and a tape ministry was begun. A folding machine and a counter-desk combination gave the Church Office a new look in 1977. The parsonage was renovated in 1980 and additional improvements were made in 1982. Pew cushions were installed in the same year.

The Golden Age Club was organized in 1983 and gave the first \$100.00 toward the purchase of a church van in 1984.

The Family Life Center was erected by Abco Construction Company in 1986 at a cost of \$222, 381.77.

A need for extra parking prompted the church to lease the vacant lot across from

the church from the Thermond Barnes family. In 1992, the church office was renovated a refurbished and new equipment was added. In 1995 the parlor and restrooms in the church were re-decorated, and in 1996, the J. W. Everton Memorial Library was expanded.

Excitement was at an all-time high when the Church purchased a new Allen organ and a studio grand piano in 1993. Two light fixtures, which were salvaged from the original church building, were installed in the vestibule in 1994. Microphones and speakers for the sanctuary were installed in 1995, and an answering machine was added to the church office in the same year.

Pictorial Church Directories for the membership have been published for the years 1979, 1985, 1989, and 1996, and pictures of all pastors have been displayed at the entrance of the Family Life Center.

The past twenty-five years at Daniels Chapel Church have seen five men licensed to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Acolytes took part in the worship services for the first time in 1977, with two boys serving. Both boys and girls started serving in this capacity in 1991.

Due to an increase of children and babies in our congregation, Children's Church was organized in 1990, and in 1996 a Toddler's Church was started.

A church slogan "A Light in the Community for Christ" was officially adopted in 1996. In the same year, Mr. Johnny Sullivan became the first full-time Youth/Music Director.

The Lord has prospered the Church financially through a steadily increased

budget of \$26,235.00 for the 1971-72 church year to \$156,500.00 for the 1996-97 church year.

The debt on the Family Life Center was retired five years early, enabling the Church to persue the hiring of a full-time Youth/Music Director. The note burning of the facility is planned for Homecoming Day, September 22, 1996.

The Church has been a staunch supporter of all Original Free Will Baptist Denominal Ministeries through all of these seventy-five years.

As a part of the outreach ministry of the Church, \$265.00 was contributed to the establishment of Free Spirit Original Free Will Baptist Mission, which later was organized into a church.

Other outreach ministeries included:

1. A \$50.00 monthly contribution to sponsor a Mexican Pastor.
2. The recommendation of a Minister's Widow Fund, which culminated in the establishment of said fund by the Denomination.
3. A weekly donation was given to fund missions for the hearing impaired.
4. The Church and Woman's Auxiliary financed the 1985 missions trip to California of the Pastor and wife for ministry with the H'Mongs.

DANIELS CHAPEL FWB CHURCH MINISTERS
(Serving from 1921 to 1996)

Playing a prominent role in the leadership and history of the church have been its pastors, a list of which follows:

W. M. Howell	Nov., 1921 - Sept., 1923
N. S. Lancaster	Sept., 1923 - Sept., 1925
M. E. Tyson	Sept., 1925 - Sept., 1928
C. M. Johnson	Sept., 1928 - Sept., 1931
M. A. Woodard	Sept., 1931 - Sept., 1932
L. B. Manning	Sept., 1932 - Sept., 1938
W. R. Williams	Sept., 1938 - Sept., 1941
L. B. Manning	Sept., 1941 - Sept., 1945
S. A. Smith	Sept., 1945 - Sept., 1950
W. R. Williams	Sept., 1950 - Sept., 1951
S. A. Smith	Sept., 1951 - Sept., 1952
J. W. Everton	Sept., 1952 - Sept., 1957
Melvin Everington	Sept., 1957 - June, 1960
David C. Hansley	June, 1960 - Feb., 1963
W. S. Burns	Mar., 1963 - June, 1966
J. W. Everton	June, 1966 - Mar., 1971
Floyd B. Cherry	July, 1971 - June, 1975
Larry Barbour	July, 1975 - Aug., 1976
David C. Hansley	Aug., 1976 - Nov., 1980
Earl H. Glenn	February, 1982 to Present



Left to Right: (Front Row) Raymond Baker, Mildred Cayton, Lucille Cayton, Clarence Pittman • (Second Row) Ada Gray Barfield, Peggy Manning, Howard Cayton, James Jones • (Third Row) Hubert Baker, Eloise Moore



About 1950

